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Item 15  
of the Agenda

## Exonyms

### TO THE DEFINITION OF THE TERMS 'EXONYM', 'ENDONYM' AND 'STANDARDIZED ENONYM'

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Submitted by the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division  
Prepared by J. Sievers and R. Stani-Fertl

In line with the terminological practice established during previous UNGEGN Sessions and UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the DGSD proposes the following definitions for the terms ENDONYM, STANDARDIZED ENDONYM, and EXONYM after having reviewed various definition proposals.

## **ENDONYM**

### *Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology, VERSION 2.0*

Name used in the region in which the feature is located, regardless of the script in which it is expressed in writing. [ ... ]

### *Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology, VERSION 3.0*

Name used in the region in which the feature is located, regardless of the script in which it is expressed in writing. [ ... ]

### *Working Paper 44 / 18th UNGEGN, submitted by Lewis*

1. A name of a geographical entity in a sovereign country as written in one of the indigenous languages of that country.
2. When two or more names in a sovereign country are officially recognized by that country, responsibility for determining the precedence of one over another rests with its national authority.

### **Definition recommended by DGSD**

**A name of a geographical entity in one of the indigenous languages occurring in that area where the entity is situated.**

## **STANDARDIZED ENDONYM**

Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology, VERSION 2.0

**Endonym sanctioned by a names authority. [ ... ]**

Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology, VERSION 3.0

**Endonym sanctioned by a names authority. [ ... ]**

Working Paper 44 / 18th UNGEGN, submitted by Lewis

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Working Paper 56 / 18th UNGEGN, submitted by Back et al.

[ ... ] a geographical name used in one of the officially recognized languages of a sovereign State, or part of such State, for an entity situated within the area where that language has official status.

### **Definition recommended by DGSD**

(in accordance with Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology, VERSION 2.0 and 3.0)

**Endonym sanctioned by a names authority.** Examples: The Italian name *Bolzano* and the German name *Bozen* are both standardized endonyms in South Tyrol. In Alsace the French name *Wissembourg* is the standardized endonym, the German name *Weißenburg* is not a standardized endonym.

## EXONYM

### Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology, VERSION 2.0

Name used in a specific language for a topographic feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing from the endonym not only through conversion. [ ... ]

### Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology, VERSION 3.0

According to United Nations usage: name used in a specific language for a topographic feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing from the endonym not only through conversion or the omission of diacritics. [ ... ]

A differing view holds that a name given by a particular linguistic community to a place which formerly belonged to a political entity (e.g. a country) where the language of this community had official status, and which differs from the official endonym, or to a place in an area where this language, while having no official status, is still widely spoken - does not constitute an exonym.

### Working Paper 44 / 18th UNGEGN, submitted by Lewis

1. A foreign name. A name from outside the national territory.
2. For the purposes of international standardization, an exonym is regarded as being a geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical name situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated.

### 2nd UN Conference 1972 / World Cartography XVIII, 1986

**A geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated.**

→ Dutch Speaking Derision.

### Definition recommended by DGSD

For the purposes of international standardization, an exonym is regarded as being **a geographical name used in a certain language for a geographical entity situated outside the area where that language has official status and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical entity is situated.**